

Minutes of the Economic Development Commission held at 8:00 A.M., on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at the offices of Edge Technology, 445 Washington Avenue.

Members Present: Ralph Durante, LuAnn Buono, Thomas Dunham, William Gambardella, Frank Maher, Walter Mann, Deborah Moore, Walter Nester

Members Absent: Radha Prasad

Also Present: First Selectman Janet M. McCarty, Alan Fredricksen

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time:

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on January 24, 2008
2. Agenda dated February 20, 2008

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the meeting held on January 24, 2008, Ms. Buono moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Dunham.

VOTE: All in favor.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST

Mr. Durante began the discussion stating that the breakfast will take place on Thursday, March 27th at Anthem Blue Cross. Continental breakfast will begin at 7:30 am with the program to follow at 8:00 am. He asked members of the commission to review the mailing list and add/update the list as necessary. He also asked First Selectman McCarty to extend an invitation to Department Heads/Supervisors.

Mr. Durante said he would like Mr. Rabina to be the keynote speaker for the breakfast so he could update the Town on the Pratt & Whitney site. Other speakers include David Fusco, Anthem Blue Cross, Ms. Rubatone, Quinnipiac University, Doug Gray, Eclipse, and Dave Benfer, St. Raphael's. Marlin Firearms and Stop & Shop Distribution Center are possibilities.

Mr. Durante suggested that next year we have the breakfast at Covidien. He recommended that he and First Selectman McCarty set up a meeting with the new president of Covidien.

RABINA PROJECT – BEST PRACTICES

Mr. Walter Mann reported on the research he did for Atlantic Station which is located in Atlanta, Georgia on 138 acres. It is a mixed use development with 5,000 condo lofts, town houses and apartments. He said that most of the people he spoke with felt that the development has had a positive effect on the area. One person in particular noted that there has been very little crime associated with the development. He distributed his detailed report to the Commission members.

Ms. LuAnn Buono then reported on Kierland Commons which is located in Phoenix, AZ on 38 acres. She said it was a very upscale, posh development. In her research, she found that it is an adult community (no children); there are approximately 85 loft style homes, no impact on traffic, very little crime, and a very popular concept. She distributed her detailed report to the Commission members.

As a resource, Mr. Durante recommended that the Commission members contact either Shelly Saczynski at the UI or Richard LoPresti, DECD.

OTHER

Mr. Durante discussed the former Donato's Restaurant. He asked Mr. Nester to get in touch with Susan Ryan and find out what is going on with the property. It is a critical location for the Town and we need to move on this as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business before the Commission Mr. Durante moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 AM, seconded by Ms. Buono.